

Susan Bankston  
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Richmond, TX 77469  
(281) 799-0570

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION

2009 SEP 10 PM 4:00  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

August 31, 2009

Federal Election Commission  
999 East Street NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MVR #62D5 MUR 6205

Dear Sir:

We are in possession of the above numbered complaint. Our understanding, Mr. Paul Ware specifically complained of an attached door hanger claiming it advocated the election of two federal candidates, Barack Obama and Rick Noriega. He claimed such were distributed all over Fort Bend County and cost well in excess of \$1,000.00. He further claimed we did not file with the Federal Elections Commission for the reporting of the expenditures for these federal candidates.

As to the factual allegations, Fort Bend Democrats did not file as a Federal Pac to report the costs of the materials as expenditures for any federal candidates. We did not consider ourselves a Federal Pac nor the questioned door hanger directly advocated the election of federal candidates. The door hanger was a political piece advocating, "Vote a Straight Democratic ticket." The overwhelming majority of the content and theme of the piece was calling for the straight democratic ticket and showing voters "how to" vote straight tickets.

Nowhere is there any language urging voters directly or instructing voters how to vote for Barack Obama and Joe Biden. The only mention of Barack Obama's name is in language, pointing out Barack Obama can't change our country without electing races up and down the ballot. It is true Rick Noriega appears one time as part of a slate card of candidates. Nowhere is his name singled out or his issues shown in any detail. As has been stated, this piece was a slate card emphasizing the importance and mechanism of voting a straight democratic ticket.

As to the piece it cost \$2,600.00 with \$214.50 tax, see Exhibit A & B. We believe the slate consisted of 9 candidates. However, if you included Barack Obama, the total would be 10 with 2 being federal candidates. In either event, the expense for this piece for the percentage for federal candidates was far less than \$1,000.00 (i.e. either \$520.00 or \$288.00 depending on percentage use). This piece was not mailed but was distributed

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by volunteer labor; no paid distribution by paid labor was utilized. It was typically distributed by block walking lit drops or off tables at campaign headquarters and events.

Accordingly, we did not feel we were a Federal Pac nor did we use funds to advocate for federal candidates. Specifically this political piece in question was a political piece advocating a "Straight Democratic Ticket" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Bankston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan Bankston,  
Executive Director

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MINA

# VOTE CHANGE!

Barack Obama can't change  
our nation's direction by  
himself.

He needs all of us to stand  
and make our voices heard.  
Democracy can only help  
transform us into a better  
America.

Barack has inspired all of  
us to get involved in  
the political process.  
In Washington, we  
can help Obama lead  
our country better.  
That's why I'm asking you  
to join me to get out  
and vote.

Democracy is our only



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# CHANGE

WE CAN BELIEVE IN

**Rick Noriega**

U.S. Senator

**Dora Olivo**

State Representative

**Richard Morrison**

County Commissioner

County Clerk

**Albert Hollan**

County Clerk

**Leslie Taylor**

County Clerk

**Milton Flick**

County Clerk

**Martin Siegel**

County Clerk

**Jim Sharp**

County Clerk

**Susan Strawn**

County Clerk

## The easy way to vote straight ticket:

1. Highlight and select
  2. Press Cast Ballot
- Don't vote Party

GENERAL ELECTION  
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS  
ELECCIÓN GENERAL  
CONDADO DE FORT BEND, TEXAS

Straight Party

Preside Complete

☐ Republican Party

☐ Florida Republican

☒ Democratic Party

☐ Florida Democratic